The Joint Commission

Proposed Infection Prevention and Control Chapter for the Home Care Program

IC.04.01.01

The organization has an organizationwide infection prevention and control program for the surveillance, prevention, and control of infections and communicable diseases.

Elements of Performance (EPs) for IC.04.01.01

1. **The organization assigns responsibility for the management of infection prevention and control activities to one or more individuals.**
   (See also HR.01.01.01, EP 1)

2. **The responsibilities of the individual(s) assigned to manage infection prevention and control activities include the following:**
   - Developing and implementing infection prevention and control policies and procedures that adhere to law and regulation and nationally recognized guidelines
   - Developing surveillance activities, including methodologies and procedures for the identification of infections and communicable diseases among patients
   - Documenting the infection prevention and control program and its surveillance, prevention, and control activities
   - Coordinating competency-based training and education of staff on infection prevention and control policies and procedures and their application
   - Monitoring staff adherence to infection prevention and control policies and procedures
   - Participating in the organization's quality assessment and performance improvement program
   Note 1: Examples of methodologies and procedures for the identification of infections and communicable diseases may include but are not limited to identifying new signs or symptoms of infection, clinical record review, results of laboratory or other diagnostic testing, follow-up with the prescribing physician, other healthcare team member(s), or data analysis of health care visits for symptoms of infection.
   Note 2: The outcome of competency-based training is the staff's ability to demonstrate the skills and tasks specific to their roles and responsibilities. Examples of competencies may include donning and doffing of personal protective equipment and the ability to correctly perform cleaning and disinfection of reusable medical equipment and supplies (For more information on competency requirements, refer to HR.01.06.01, EPs 1,3, 5, 6).

3. **The organization infection prevention and control program has written policies and procedures to guide its activities and methods for preventing and controlling the transmission of infections and communicable diseases. The policies and procedures are in accordance with applicable law and regulation, nationally recognized evidence-based guidelines, and standards of practice and, at a minimum, address the following:**
   - Surveillance methods and activities to identify infections and communicable diseases

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- Internal reporting of infections, infectious contamination or exposure, or infection control breaches
- Reporting of infections and communicable diseases to local and state public health authorities
- Standard precautions
- Transmission-based precautions, including how and when they should be used by staff
- Insertion, maintenance, and discontinuation of invasive medical devices used in the organization's patient population (for example, intravascular catheter, enteral feeding tube, indwelling urinary catheter, ventilator)
Note 1: Relevant federal, state, and local law and regulations include but are not limited to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Conditions of Participation, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations for reprocessing single-use medical devices; Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA) Bloodborne Pathogens Standard 29 CFR 1910.1030, Personal Protective Equipment Standard 29 CFR 1910.132, and Respiratory Protection Standard 29 CFR 1910.134; health care worker vaccination laws; state and local public health authorities' requirements for reporting of communicable diseases and outbreaks; and state and local regulatory requirements for biohazardous or regulated medical waste generators.
Note 2: Standard precautions include hand hygiene, environmental cleaning and disinfection, injection and medication safety, use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), minimizing potential exposures, and reprocessing, storage, and transport of equipment or devices used for patient care. For full details on standard precautions, refer to The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Core Infection Prevention and Control Practices for Safe Healthcare Delivery in All Settings
https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/guidelines/core-practices/index.html
Note 3: The organization follows the manufacturer's instructions for reprocessing (that is, cleaning and disinfection or cleaning and sterilization) and uses current standards of practice for transport and storage of patient care equipment.

6. **The organization provides supplies to support infection prevention and control activities.**
Note: Examples of supplies include alcohol-based hand sanitizers, hand soap, personal protective equipment, and cleaning and disinfection supplies.

IC.04.01.03

The organization establishes processes for the prevention and control of infections and communicable diseases.

Elements of Performance (EPs) for IC.04.01.03

1. **The organization assigns responsibility for the management of infection prevention and control activities to one or more individuals.**
(See also HR.01.01.01, EP 1)

2. **The responsibilities of the individual(s) assigned to manage infection prevention and control activities include the following:**
- Developing and implementing infection prevention and control policies and procedures that adhere to law and regulation and nationally recognized guidelines
- Coordinating competency-based training and education of staff on infection

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prevention and control policies and procedures and their application
- Monitoring staff adherence to infection prevention and control policies and procedures
Note: The outcome of competency-based training is the staff's ability to demonstrate the skills and tasks specific to their roles and responsibilities. Examples of competencies may include donning and doffing of personal protective equipment and the ability to correctly perform cleaning and disinfection of reusable medical equipment and supplies (For more information on competency requirements, refer to HR.01.06.01, EPs 1,3, 5, 6).

3. **The organization has written policies and procedures to guide its activities and methods for preventing and controlling the transmission of infections and communicable diseases. The policies and procedures are in accordance with applicable law and regulation, nationally recognized evidence-based guidelines, and standards of practice and, at a minimum, address the following:**
- Internal reporting of infections, infectious contamination or exposure, or infection control breaches
- Reporting of infections and communicable diseases to local and state public health authorities
- Standard precautions
- Transmission-based precautions, including how and when they should be used by staff
Note 1: Relevant federal, state, and local law and regulations include but are not limited to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Conditions of Participation, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations for reprocessing single-use medical devices; Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA) Bloodborne Pathogens Standard 29 CFR 1910.1030, Personal Protective Equipment Standard 29 CFR 1910.132, and Respiratory Protection Standard 29 CFR 1910.134; health care worker vaccination laws; state and local public health authorities' requirements for reporting of communicable diseases and outbreaks; and state and local regulatory requirements for biohazardous or regulated medical waste generators.
Note 2: Standard precautions include hand hygiene, environmental cleaning and disinfection, injection and medication safety, use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), minimizing potential exposures, and reprocessing, storage, and transport of equipment or devices used for patient care. For full details on standard precautions, refer to The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Core Infection Prevention and Control Practices for Safe Healthcare Delivery in All Settings https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/guidelines/core-practices/index.html
Note 3: The organization follows the manufacturer's instructions for reprocessing (that is, cleaning and disinfection or cleaning and sterilization) and uses current standards of practice for transport and storage of patient care equipment.

4. **The organization provides supplies to support infection prevention and control activities.**
Note: Examples of supplies include alcohol-based hand sanitizers, hand soap, personal protective equipment, and cleaning and disinfection supplies.

IC.06.01.01

The organization implements activities for the prevention and control of infections and

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communicable diseases.

Elements of Performance (EPs) for IC.06.01.01

1. **To prioritize the organization's infection prevention and control activities, the organization identifies risks for infection, contamination, and exposure that pose a risk to patients and staff based on the following:**
   - Its geographic location, community, and population served
   - The care, treatment, and services it provides
   - The analysis of surveillance activities and other infection control data
   - Relevant infection control issues identified by the local, state, or federal public health authorities that could impact the organization
   Note: Risks may include organisms with a propensity for transmission within health care facilities or in the community based on published reports and the occurrence of clusters of patients (for example, norovirus, respiratory syncytial virus [RSV], influenza, measles, and organisms with antimicrobial resistance such as Carbapenem-resistant Enterobacterales [CRE], Candida auris).
2. **The organization reviews identified risks at least annually or whenever significant changes in risk occur.**
3. **The organization implements activities for the identification, prevention, and control of infections and communicable diseases.**
   (See also NPSG.07.01.01, EP 1)
4. **The organization implements its policies and procedures for reporting an outbreak in accordance with state and local public health authorities' requirements and communicates information necessary to prevent further transmission of the infection among patients, caregivers, and staff, as appropriate.**
5. **The organization implements policies and procedures to minimize the risk of communicable disease exposure and acquisition among its staff, in accordance with law and regulation. The policies and procedures address the following:**
   - Screening and medical evaluations for infectious diseases
   - Immunizations
   - Staff education and training
   - Management of staff with potentially infectious exposures or communicable illnesses
6. **The organization monitors patterns and trends in infections and implements a corrective action plan to address or prevent transmission of infection.**
7. **The organization evaluates the effectiveness of the corrective plan as part of the quality assessment and performance improvement program.**

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